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To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 5:42pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

It is time to bring the Microsoft settlement to an end. Finalize the settlement so users like myself can benefit from new software from Microsoft. They have created a user world where everyone can talk to each other and software can be used by all. My business can communicate with customers who use Microsoft spreadsheets and databases because of the compatibility Microsoft has provided.

Having spent 40 years in the computer industry I have been appalled at the actions taken by our government to impede the progress brought to that industry by Microsoft. Clearly directed by its arch enemies, the imposed policies are not intended to benefit the computer users but rather to enhance the fortunes of the few other very large software companies that have tried to compete with Microsoft and failed. Before Microsoft the industry was a mixture of hardware and software with no interchangeability between either. Software from an IBM system didn't run on a machine made by Digital Equipment, and vice-versa. Microsoft brought software compatibility to the PC world and in doing so enabled multi-millions of users access to all PC's. This promoted an avalanche of applications which can run on any PC because of the Operating System flexibility provided by Microsoft.

Historically, Sun Microsystems destroyed its major competitor, Apollo Systems, with predatory pricing policies, so that HP had to rescue Apollo with a takeover. Now Mr. McNealy arrogantly uses our government as a surrogate to try to destroy Microsoft because he can't touch them in fair competition. The law suit has gone too far already. Finalize the settlement agreement and let the industry go forward so users like myself can get back to business and get the best benefit possible from Microsoft's ingenuity and determination.

I realize this is a long message, but one final thought. If Microsoft were located in California the suit would never have happened because the Silicon Valley \$\$ and political pressures would have killed it long ago. They are all jealous of Gates. They hate him because of his success, yes, and his drive to be the best and the richest. And that's what this country is supposed to be about. They just haven't had his drive or his intelligence.